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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NCO & Soldier of the Year Competition**

**Army Warriors lay it all on the line in annual competition**

*The Army's best to compete in the NCO & Soldier of the Year*

*"Best Warrior" competition October 2-6 at Fort Lee, Va.*

FORT LEE, VA – U.S. Army Warriors from around the world will gather here October 2-6 to determine who is the most technically and tactically professional Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer in the U.S. Army during the fifth annual Soldier and NCO of the Year "Best Warrior" Competition.

These 20 Soldiers and NCOs, who will compete for the Army titles, are wrapping up preliminary competitions held by major the Army commands. The competitors for Soldier of the Year will include the ranks of Private through Specialist. The competitors for NCO of the Year will include the ranks Corporal through Sergeant First Class.

The competitors will face rigorous tests that challenge their Warrior skills, qualities and abilities in every aspect. The competition begins with four days of testing at Fort Lee, Va. Here, the Warriors will take the Army Physical Fitness Test consisting of push ups, sit ups and a two-mile run and attempt to maximize their score in each event; a written examination on general military topics; fire M-16 rifles for record; negotiate day and night Warrior Urban Orientation courses; and be evaluated in a number of critical Warrior Tasks and Skills. The competitors must also write a graded essay.

The contenders will also face selection boards in front of their Army peers. Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston will chair both the Soldier and NCO selection boards, and the two boards will each be comprised of six senior command sergeants major from throughout the Army. The boards will evaluate each Warrior's appearance, military bearing and knowledge in a number of key areas.

The major commands that will be represented in the competition are: U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Eighth U.S. Army-Korea, U.S. Army Medical Command, U.S. Army Pacific Command, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Military District of Washington and National Capitol Region, which includes ten smaller commands.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Monday, October 9 at the Sergeant Major of the Army luncheon held at the Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

**ATTENTION ASSIGNMENT EDITORS:**

View the Online Press Kit at [http://www.ima.lee.army.mil/sites/pao/NCOY-SOY\\_2006/index.htm](http://www.ima.lee.army.mil/sites/pao/NCOY-SOY_2006/index.htm) for detailed information.

Media interested in covering any of these events needs to fill out a media credential request. For further information, contact Timothy L. Hale at 804-734-7046 or Paul Sweeney at 804-734-6963 at the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office by Monday, September 25.

